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CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2005

REF: A. 6166 (IN 77894)*
B. DIRECTOR 67764 **
C. 9001 (IN 76304)***

1. I AM SENDING A BRIEF LETTER FOR YOU TO PASS WHICH STATES THAT DESPITE SHORT-TERM ADVANTAGE OF REPATRIATING PRISONERS NOW IN COMMUNIST JAILS WE FEAR THAT CATUSK SCHEME TO SHORT-CIRCUIT PRISONER EXCHANGE DEAL COULD OPEN PANDORA'S BOX OF FUTURE PROBLEMS. I TOLD THAT WE HAVE SENT TO YOU A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF OUR VIEWS AND SAID I URGED YOU TO DISCUSS THESE WITH HIM.

2. SUGGEST YOU DETERMINE WHETHER CATUSK HAS CONSIDERED RETALIATORY ACTIONS COMMUNISTS MIGHT TAKE AGAINST INNOCENT WESTERN TOURISTS TRAVELLING IN SOVIET UNION OR BLCC COUNTRIES. ALSO DETERMINE CATUSK ESTIMATE OF OTHER CONSEQUENCES LIKELY TO RESULT IF PLAN IS EXECUTED, ESPECIALLY RE LIKELIHOOD OF PROLONGED STAND DOWN FUTURE PRISONER EXCHANGE NEGOTIATIONS.

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3. IN TALK WITH E YOU MAY STRESS THAT FELFE, AS CONVICTED AND UNREPENTANT SOVIET SPY, WHO SERIOUSLY DAMAGED CATUSK AND WOFIRM AND WHO CAUSED ARRESTS NUMEROUS LOYAL AGENTS, WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE FOR EVEN TEMPORARY RESIDENCE WOLADY BY ANY YARDSTICK GOVERNING POLITICAL ASYLUM PETITIONERS.

4. WHILE FELFE BOOK MIGHT SELL IN WEST, IT WOULD NOT LIKELY ENHANCE PUBLIC IMAGE OF CATUSK OR WOFIRM. (GIVEN RECENT SPATE OF ESPIONAGE-RELATED CASES IN GERMAN HEADLINES AND TENDENCY OF LIBERAL PRESS TO RIDICULE CATUSK YOU MIGHT EMPHASIZE DAMAGE THAT A FULL FELFE EXPOSE COULD CAUSE IN PRESENT HIGHLY-CHARGED ATMOSPHERE. A FELFE BOOK PUBLISHED IN EAST GERMANY WOULD HAVE MUCH LESS PUBLICITY IMPACT.)

5. YOU MAY ALSO CONSIDER IT PERTINENT TO RAISE QUESTION WHETHER WEST GERMAN SOCIALISTS MIGHT INTERPRET THIS ACTION AS EFFORT TO SABOTAGE FOREIGN MINISTER BRANDT'S EFFORTS TO KEEP OPEN HIS LINE OF COMMUNICATION TO SOVIET AND EAST Bloc COUNTRIES. BRANDT HAS PERSISTED IN HIS EASTERN POLICY DESPITE SERIOUS BLOW DEALT IT BY SOVIET ACTION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA. BECAUSE IT IS THE KEYSTONE OF SPD FOREIGN POLICY AND ONE WHICH DISTINGUISHES SOCIALIST

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C/CD DIRECTOR

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FROM MORE CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, BRANDT AND FOLLOWERS MIGHT WELL INTERPRET CATUSK PROPOSED ACTION AS A CDU MANEUVER TO GAIN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN COMING ELECTIONS. YOU MIGHT ASK

C TO COMMENT ON THIS POINT, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF CATUSK RELUCTANCE EXPRESSED REFERENCE C TO DISCUSS FELFE PLAN WITH "ANY SPD GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL."

6. AS YOU WILL GATHER, WE NOT ONLY DO NOT WANT WOFIRM CONNECTED WITH THE C PLAN, WE ALSO WONDER WHETHER IT IS NOT A VERY DANGEROUS ENTERPRISE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE CATUSK AND THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE.

END OF MESSAGE

C briefed on WOFIRM stand in the Felfe plan on morning of 23 January 1969.

Requested that C be advised that WOFIRM cannot support any scheme to bring Felfe to WOLADY (4) and does not wish in any way to be connected with the proposed plan.

***Reported passing of firm statement to C negating WOFIRM active assistance requested in Felfe case.

Richard Helms
ECI

C/EUR

Thomas H. Karamessines
PDP

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